

[26th February, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Censors will go to the movies with you" appeared in the Indian Express, (New Delhi), dated 8th February, 2001;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has decided to hire detective agency at an estimated cost of Rs. 45 lakh per annum to keep a watch on movies that violate provisions of Cinematograph Act, 1952; and

(d) if so, the reasons for duplication of work when CBFC and its Advisory Committees at State levels are already working in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has been receiving reports of violation of the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952, in various forms, in several States and Union Territories, thereby defeating the very purpose of certification. With a view to ensuring strict compliance of the provisions of the Act, CBFC has decided, on a test case basis, to hire a private detective agency, at an estimated cost of Rs. 14.00 lakhs for the current year, which will carry out regular checks in theatres in the four metropolitan cities, and report cases of violation to the concerned State authorities.

(d) The members of the Advisory Panels of CBFC are nominated primarily for assisting the Board in certification of films. However, it has been noticed that interpolations often take place after issue of CBFC certificate and do not ordinarily come to the notice of the CBFC or the Advisory Panels.

**Plan to provide financial assistance to film industry**

408. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate plans to provide financial assistance to film industry by which influence of underworld can be overcome;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any consensus has been evolved on the uniform entertainment tax throughout the country during recently held State Information Ministers' conference; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, alongwith other matters discussed in the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) In order to facilitate a greater flow of institutional finance to the film industry, Notification dated 16.10.2000 was issued by the Department of Economic Affairs (Banking Division), Ministry of Finance, where under the "Entertainment Industry including Films" has been specified as an approved activity under "Industrial Concern" in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 2(c) (xvii) of the IDBI Act. The Department of Economic Affairs (Banking Division) has asked the IDBI to evolve well- recognized and acceptable standards to enable financial institutions to fund ventures relating to the film industry. The Department of Economic Affairs (Banking Division) has also asked the RBI along with the IDBI to circulate necessary guidelines to banks in this regard.

To help the film industry to function along organized lines, an Advisory Group comprising key representatives of the film sector has been set up to advise the Ministry on Policy and other issues relating to the film industry. A Committee for development of the Entertainment Sector has been set up, in addition under the Chairmanship of the Minister for Information and Broadcasting comprising State Ministers for Information and Public Relations from nine States (Statement annexed). {See below.}

(c) and (d) No consensus on the Uniform Entertainment Tax issue was evolved but the Committee constituted as per (a) & (b) above will also look into this issues.

The other issues discussed at the Conference included developments in the field of Broadcasting changes in the Cable Network Act, need to curb violence and obscenity in films, and issue of surrogate advertising.

#### **Statement**

The composition of the Committee constituted *vide* this Ministry's order No. 103/1/2001 dated 14.2.2001 is as follows:—

- (i) Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting—Chairperson,
- (ii) Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting—Vice Chairman,
- (iii) Minister in charge of Information & PR, Government of Assam,
- (iv) Minister in charge of Information & PR, Government of Gujarat,
- (v) Minister in charge of Information & PR, Government of Jammu & Kashmir,

[26th February, 2001 ]

RAJYA SABHA

- (vi) Minister in charge of Information & PR, Government of Jharkhand,
- (vii) Minister in charge of Information & PR, Government of Karnataka,
- (viii) Minister in charge of Information & PR, Government of Maharashtra,
- (ix) Minister in charge of Information & PR, Government of Mizoram,
- (x) Minister in charge of Information & PR, Government of Rajasthan,
- (xi) Minister in charge of Information & PR, Government of Tamil Nadu.

The terms of reference of the Committee are:

- (i) To suggest a policy framework, both at the Centre and in the States, conducive for nurturing the entertainment sector;
- (ii) To recommend changes in the legislative and regulatory framework due to the changing/evolving canvas of the entertainment sector;
- (iii) To identify the additional infrastructure needs in terms of, *inter-alia*, education, training, software production facilities, exhibition etc.
- (iv) To suggest measures for boosting exports;
- (v) To identify ways for providing finance for cinema;
- (vi) To review the taxation regime and recommend changes which could be made conducive to greater revenue generation, and at the same time, also encouraging the entertainment sector;
- (vii) Any other issue related or incidental for achieving the potential of the entertainment sector.

No specific time frame has been prescribed for the Committee to submit its recommendations.

#### **Reconstitution of Hindi Salahakar Samiti**

409. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) when was Hindi Salahakar Samiti re-constituted recently in his Ministry;
- (b) the number of sittings of the Samiti held during the last three years, year-wise; and
- (c) the efforts made to conduct meetings regularly?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Ministry's Hindi Salahakar Samiti was reconstituted on 29.6.1999.